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DEATHS REPORTED AFTER TRAIN DERAILS

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THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" II COR. 3:17

IndyStar.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK
CITY EDITION

"We definitely miss the community part of policing," Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Chief Bryan Roach said Monday during the swearing-in ceremony for 59 new police recruits. MATT KRYGER/INDYSTAR

'HEARTBREAKING' RECORD SET AGAIN

Latest death marks city's 150th criminal homicide of year

Holly V. Hays, Ryan Martin and Vic Ryckaert
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The fatal shooting of a man on the east side early Monday appears to mark Indianapolis' 150th criminal homicide of the year, which would surpass 2016's record-setting total of 149 and make this the city's third-consecutive year of such record violence.

"Look, it's heartbreaking," Mayor Joe Hogsett said Monday. "At the same time, it's maddening."

Hogsett made the comments after announcing that the city had reached a $4.2 million deal toward land for a new criminal justice center, which he said will include "holistic criminal justice reform efforts" that will reduce crime in the long run. The mayor about a year ago announced sweeping efforts to overhaul the city's criminal justice system.

Officers found Monday's victim, later identified as 25-year-old Walter Benyon, about 12:30 a.m. in an apartment in the 5300 block of Butler Terrace. The Marion County coroner's office said Monday afternoon that Benyon died of multiple gunshot

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> "We cannot as a city fix this problem unless we address the root causes of the violence."
>
> **The Rev. Charles Harrison**
> Ten Point Coalition

INSIDE

Ten Point Coalition expands its outreach to Indianapolis' east side. **3A**

City takes next step to justice center

Indy reaches deal with Citizens for new site

Fatima Hussein
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mayor Joe Hogsett announced Monday morning that Indianapolis and Citizens Energy Group have reached a $4.2 million deal for the Pleasant Run Crossing site in the Twin Aire neighborhood for the city's new criminal justice center.

Jeffrey Harrison, CEO of Citizens Energy Group, said during a news conference that the 140-acre site of the former coke factory on the southeast side will undergo environmental remediation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and experts from Purdue University.

Harrison said the long-term goal is that the water quality of the site will be restored by 2025.

But construction of the justice center campus will begin sooner, once the site

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"Citizens Energy has balanced its business interests with the needs of the city," Mayor Joe Hogsett said Monday. KELLY WILKINSON/INDYSTAR

DCS head resigns, says kids 'will die'

Bonaventura critical of governor's office policies

Marisa Kwiatkowski
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

In her letter of resignation, the longtime director of the Indiana Department of Child Services lashed out at the governor's office, warning that a continuation of its policies will "all but ensure children will die," IndyStar has learned.

Mary Beth Bonaventura

Mary Beth Bonaventura, who has worked in child welfare for 36 years, said she could no longer in good conscience stand by and watch Hoosier children "being systemically placed at risk, without the ability to help them."

"I feel I am unable to protect children because of the position taken by your staff to cut funding and services to children in the midst of the opioid crisis," she wrote in the Dec. 12 letter to Gov. Eric Holcomb. "I choose to resign rather than be complicit in decreasing the safety, permanency and well-being of children who have nowhere else to turn."

Without serious changes, Bonaventura warned, "I fear lives will be lost and families ruined."

On Monday, Holcomb told IndyStar he believes the state is taking "appropriate steps," including increasing DCS' budget by $450 million. He said he respects and appreciates Bonaventura's commitment to children.

"I wish her well," he said, "and I'll continue to focus on how to meet the needs of Hoosier families and children."

Former Gov. Mike Pence appointed Bonaventura to the helm of the child welfare agency in 2013. Prior to that, she spent 31 years working in the Lake County juvenile court system as a referee, magistrate and then judge. Former Gov. Evan Bayh appointed Bonaventura as Lake Juvenile Court judge in 1993, and voters retained her by large margins until her move to DCS.

Bonaventura's letter to Holcomb, which was obtained by IndyStar, outlines reasons she believes the state is threatening the lives of children.

First, Bonaventura said Holcomb's office stripped her of power to run the agency she is responsible for.

She said the governor's office placed Eric Miller as her DCS chief of

See DCS, Page 6A

Not over yet
Colts' final regular-season games will determine future for some players. **1C**

'A distraction' expelled
Jeff Miller kicked out of GOP caucus by City-County Council Republicans, **3A**

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